# Claims

[c1]        A system comprising:

        a workstation accessible by a customer;

        a server coupled to the workstation;

        a database coupled to the server; and

        report generating software accessible through the server, wherein the software:

        receives an access key from the customer;

        sends a page to the workstation, wherein the page specifies one or more subject areas within the database to which the customer is permitted access; and

        generates a report based upon an election of one of the subject areas by the customer.

[c2]        The system of claim 1, further comprising:

        a browser on the workstation, wherein the access key is sent to the report generating software through the browser.

[c3]        The system of claim 2, wherein the report is generated in hyper-text markup language.

[c4]        The system of claim 1, wherein the report generating software further:

        sends a customized page comprising one or more frames based upon the election of one of the subject areas by the customer.

[c5]        The system of claim 4, wherein the one or more frames comprise a query frame, a parameter frame, and a format frame.

[c6]        A method comprising:

        receiving an access request from a customer at a workstation;

        ascertaining rights to a database by the customer based upon the access request; and

        sending a report response to the workstation.

[c7]        The method of claim 6, further comprising:

        receiving a request from the customer, wherein the request is submitted through the browser.

[c8]        The method of claim 6, further comprising:

sending a frame to the workstation, the frame comprising a query; and

sending a second frame to the workstation based upon a response to the query by the customer.

[c9] The method of claim 8, sending a frame to the workstation further comprising:

producing a hyper-text markup language file of the frame; and

transporting the hyper-text markup language file to a browser at the workstation.

[c10] An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a system to:

receive an access request from a customer at a workstation;

ascertain rights to a database by the customer based upon the access request; and

send a report response to the workstation.

[c11] The article of claim 10, further storing instructions that enable a system to:

receive a request from the customer, wherein the request is produced on a browser.

[c12] The article of claim 11, further storing instructions that enable a system to:

send a frame to the workstation, the frame comprising a query; and

send a second frame to the workstation based upon a response to the query by the customer.

[c13] The article of claim 10, further storing instructions that enable a system to:

produce a hyper-text markup language file of the frame; and

transport the file to a browser on the workstation.

[c14] A system comprising:

a workstation accessible by a customer;

a server coupled to the workstation;

a database coupled to the server; and

ordering software accessible through the server, wherein the software:

receives an access key from the customer;

determines that a portion of the database is accessible to the customer;

fulfills a customer request for data from the portion.

[c15] The system of claim 14, further comprising:

a first conduit for sending request packets from the workstation to the server; and

a second conduit for sending response packets from the server to the workstation.

[c16]        The system of claim 15, wherein the packets are extensible markup language remote
procedure calls.

[c17]        The system of claim 14, wherein the ordering software further:

sends an electronic mail message to a predetermined electronic mail address in
response to the customer request.

[c18]        A method comprising:

receiving an access request from a customer at a workstation;

ascertaining rights to a database by the customer based upon the access request;

receiving a request from the customer; and

sending a response to the customer.

[c19]        The method of claim 18, receiving a request from the customer further comprising:

receiving the request in an extensible markup language request packet.

[c20]        The method of claim 18, receiving a request from the customer further comprising

receiving a request for inventory information in the database.

[c21]        The method of claim 20, sending a response to the customer further comprising sending
an inventory response to the workstation, wherein the inventory response is embedded in
an extensible markup language response packet.

[c22]        The method of claim 18, receiving a request from the customer further comprising
receiving a request for status of an order.

[c23]        The method of claim 22, sending a response to the customer further comprising sending
an order status response to the workstation, wherein the order status response is
embedded in an extensible markup language response packet.

[c24]        The method of claim 18, receiving a request from the customer further comprising
receiving a request to submit an order.

[c25]        The method of claim 24, sending a response to the customer further comprising sending
an order submission response to the workstation, wherein the order submission response

is embedded in an extensible markup language response packet.

[c26]    An article comprising a medium storing instructions that enable a system to:
    receive an access request from a customer at a workstation;
    ascertain rights to a database by the customer based upon the access request;
    receive a request from the customer; and
    send a response to the customer.

[c27]    The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:
    receive the request in an extensible markup language request packet.

[c28]    The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:
    receive a request for inventory information in the database.

[c29]    The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:
    send an inventory response to the workstation, wherein the inventory response is
    embedded in an extensible markup language response packet.

[c30]    The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:
    receive a request for status of an order.

[c31]    The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:
    send an order status response to the workstation, wherein the order status
    response is embedded in an extensible markup language response packet.

[c32]    The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:
    receive a request to submit an order.

[c33]    The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:
    send an order submission response to the workstation, wherein the order
    submission response is embedded in an extensible markup language response
    packet.

[c34]
    A system comprising:
    a workstation accessible by a customer;
    a server coupled to the workstation;
    a database coupled to the server;

report generating software accessible through the server, wherein the software:

receives an access key from the customer;

sends a page to the workstation, wherein the page specifies one or more subject areas within the database to which the customer is permitted access; and

generates a report based upon an election of one of the subject areas by the customer; and

ordering software accessible through the server, wherein the software:

receives an access key from the customer;

determines that a portion of the database is accessible to the customer;

fulfills a customer request for data from the portion.

[c35]     The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:

send an order status response to the workstation, wherein the order status response is embedded in an extensible markup language response packet.

[c36]     The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:

receive a request to submit an order.

[c37]     The article of claim 26, further storing instructions that enable a system to:

send an order submission response to the workstation, wherein the order submission response is embedded in an extensible markup language response packet.

[c38]     A system comprising:

a workstation accessible by a customer;

a server coupled to the workstation;

a database coupled to the server;

report generating software accessible through the server, wherein the software:

receives an access key from the customer;

sends a page to the workstation, wherein the page specifies one or more subject areas within the database to which the customer is permitted access; and

generates a report based upon an election of one of the subject areas by the customer; and

ordering software accessible through the server, wherein the software:

receives an access key from the customer;

determines that a portion of the database is accessible to the customer;

fulfills a customer request for data from the portion.